

The IRS estimates it takes over 37 hours to complete the 1040 short form, the most basic income tax form we have. Why does it take this long? Because our Tax Code today runs over 67,000 pages.

This is a disgraceful state of affairs. We need a simpler and fairer Tax Code that rewards, not punishes, hard work and success. Small business creates 70 percent of all new jobs in America. Small business can lead us out of this economic recession and back into recovery if Congress gives them a chance.

Let's start by overhauling our broken tax system.

#### HONORING CHRISTOPHER CAINE

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor Christopher Caine's 25 years of service to one of Vermont's most important and valued businesses, IBM.

The largest private employer in Vermont, IBM has long served as a bedrock in Essex Junction in the greater Burlington community. It has proven itself to be a strong corporate citizen and has shown the world that Vermonters can compete for quality high-tech jobs.

For the past 25 years, Christopher Caine has made a major contribution to that success in such positions as public policy director and, most recently, as vice president of governmental affairs.

Like thousands of Vermonters who earn their livelihoods at IBM, Christopher has worked diligently to ensure the success of this great American company, and, in so doing, he has contributed to a key part of Vermont's economy.

Upon his retirement this year from IBM, I want to salute Christopher for his contribution to IBM and to the State of Vermont.

#### CERTIFY YUCCA MOUNTAIN AS PERMANENT NUCLEAR WASTE DEPOSITORY

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, nuclear power is an environmentally friendly way to meet our energy needs. Fortunately, we have a safe and ready option for permanent storage for the waste generated by this clean power at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.

But despite the fact that energy ratepayers in my State have contributed over \$375 million to the Nuclear Waste Fund, the Federal Government has refused to keep its end of the bargain and store the nuclear waste.

Nationwide, this fund has now collected over \$350 billion in fees and interest since its inception. Minnesotans

and all Americans should not have to pay for government inaction.

I have introduced legislation that would require the President to certify Yucca Mountain as a permanent nuclear waste depository; and if it's not certified, the bill would return billions of dollars from the Nuclear Waste Fund to ratepayers across the country.

Madam Speaker, let's quickly pass the Rebating America's Deposits Act.

#### DO BETTER TO GIVE VETERANS SUPPORT

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, we owe our Nation's brave men and women in uniform a debt of gratitude. However, after speaking with so many families, it's obvious that we must do better to give veterans the support that they have earned. None of our troops should end up on the streets after serving their country, and all of our troops should have access to treatment for conditions such as posttraumatic stress syndrome.

This is why I rise today to announce my strong support for the Veterans Bill of Rights. This new bill of rights pledges three things.

One, we will increase the Veterans Administration's direct support for homeless veterans. No veteran should ever go hungry.

Two, we will make counseling services for PTSD available in every veterans center in America.

And, most importantly, three, we in Congress will make veterans a number one priority in all public policy decisions. We owe this to them and much, much more.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of Veterans Bill of Rights.

#### ENERGY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, during the campaign, President Obama pledged 95 percent of taxpayers would not see their taxes increased one single dime. Unfortunately, the President has broken this promise.

The President's budget included a cap-and-trade policy, otherwise known as cap-and-tax, that will hit every home utility bill and inflict more pain at the pump. Every American will be impacted by this dangerous policy. American households, on average, can expect to pay an additional \$3,100 a year in energy costs.

The American people still live with the memory of \$4 a gallon for gas and the hardship it inflicted on their family budgets. Even our Democrat colleagues say this.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD from North Carolina is quoted today in Roll Call as saying, "The cost of everything is going to go up."

The cost of everything is going to go up. This is the wrong direction for this country.

#### VISIT LAS VEGAS

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, this week is National Tourism Week. Tourism is the sixth biggest industry in America.

As the congresswoman from the entertainment and tourism capital of the world, fabulous Las Vegas, I want to encourage all of my fellow citizens to enjoy the remarkable diversity of options the tourism industry provides.

Come to Las Vegas. Enjoy our great hotels, fabulous shows, superb restaurants, water sports, Grand Canyon tours, great shopping, and our other wholesome family entertainment. Memorial Day weekend is right around the corner. Make your reservations now.

I promise you will have slots of fun.

#### SALUTE TO ROBBIE BEANE

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a sheriff's department veteran from Beauregard Parish in my Louisiana district who was recently killed in the line of duty.

Detective Robbie Beane had dedicated 14 years of his life protecting and serving the good people of Beauregard Parish. On May 5, he died in an accident while on duty with three of his fellow officers.

During his 14 years as a member of the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Department, Robbie Beane worked his way up to detective and had become a volunteer member of the SWAT team and the SWAT diving team.

Detective Beane was an active member of his church and volunteered in civic organizations. He was slated to be the next president of the Deridder Lion's Club.

Detective Beane is the first member of the Beauregard Sheriff's Department to be killed in the line of duty.

He leaves behind his wife, Nikki, and their daughter, Joslynn. This is a tragic loss, and I want to express my sincere condolences to his family and thank Robbie Beane for his service to our State.

#### 21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KRATOVIL). Pursuant to House Resolution 427 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2187.